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HOUSE RESOLUTION 140  
By Pruitt

A RESOLUTION to commend Bill Purcell for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a state legislator and as mayor of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on October 25, 1953, Bill Purcell earned his A.B. degree from Hamilton College and his J.D. degree from Vanderbilt University; he first entered public service in 1986 when he was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, as a House member of the 95th through 99th General Assemblies, Representative Purcell served as the House Majority Leader for six years; the Chairman of the Select Joint Committee on Children and Youth; the Chairman of the House Committee on Open Records; the Chairman of the House Rules Committee; and as a member of the Ethics Committee, the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee, and the Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the legislature, Bill Purcell was at the forefront of a host of reforms in education, criminal sentencing, health care, and workers' compensation; during his illustrious service as House Majority Leader, Tennessee was twice ranked the "Best Managed State" in the country, and also earned the distinction of being the lowest taxed state in America; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Purcell has been the distinguished recipient of numerous awards for his proficient legislative service, even a brief list of which is inspiring; he was a 1988 Toll Fellow of the Council of State Governments; was selected as the 1989 Legislator of the Year by the District Attorneys General Conference and the 1991 Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Conservation League; he received The Bridge Award from the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies in 1991, the 1993 Legislative Award from the Tennessee School Board Association, the TACC True Friend to Children Award in 1993, and the 1994 Legislator of the Year Award from the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, after serving five terms in the legislature, Representative Purcell devoted more attention and energy to issues affecting families and children; he served astutely as director of the Child and Family Policy Center at the Vanderbilt Institute of Public Policy Studies, a nationally recognized center building a bridge between academic research, politics and best practice to benefit children and their families; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 1999, Bill Purcell became the fifth mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County since its formation in 1963; and

WHEREAS, during his mayoral campaign, Mr. Purcell articulated his feelings about the importance of good schools in every neighborhood, safe neighborhoods in every part of the city, and an improved quality of life shared by all, priorities about which many Nashvillians were concerned, and the electorate subsequently showed their agreement with his philosophy at the voting booth; and

WHEREAS, in his first public acts as mayor of Metro-Nashville, Mayor Purcell distinguished himself as a leader of the highest order and an exceptional asset to the Nashville

community by renewing the city's ethics policy and establishing two new offices within the Office of Mayor, an Office of Neighborhoods and an Office of Economic and Community Development, to ensure that the economic blessings of the city are equally shared throughout; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Purcell's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bill Purcell is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Bill Purcell is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Debbie Miller, and their daughter, Jesse; and

WHEREAS, Bill Purcell is committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend the Honorable Bill Purcell for his admirable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as the state representative for the 52nd House district, House Majority Leader and as the Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.